



## Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition Newsletter

### What's New and What's News in Clean Fuels? Volume 1 – Fall 2002

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#### **Program Plan Submitted to Region IV:**

The Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition Program Plan was submitted to the Department of Energy Region IV Office in September. Thanks go to the Program Plan review committee for all their hard work. Members of the committee include Patricia Tangney, Jan Smoak, Tonya Lott, Bob Kosak, Jeff McCormack, Chris Howard and the Coalition Coordinators. Comments were received back from the Region IV Office in October. Comments were overall positive and the final draft will be submitted to the Department of Energy Headquarters in November. Copies of the Program Plan are available electronically by contacting LeAnn Herren at [herren@environ.sc.edu](mailto:herren@environ.sc.edu).

#### **E85 Use Increases at SCDHEC:**

The upgraded SCDHEC fueling facility has been in operation since April 2002. The station now offers E85 to State, Federal, County and Local Governments. Approximately 500 gallons of E85 and 2,000 gallons of unleaded fuel are being pumped per week. Governments are being encouraged to utilize the facility. Currently E85 is being sold at \$1.05 per gallon, while unleaded is \$1.15 per gallon. Fleet managers from all governmental entities will be contacted about the fuel availability and prices.

#### **USC Switches to Biodiesel:**

Starting the Fall Semester of 2002, the University of South Carolina is turning to biodiesel to reduce exhaust fumes and pollution on campus. Derrick Huggins, Director of Vehicle Management and Parking Services is quoted in the USC Times as saying the switch to biodiesel is "part of our overall plan to create a greener, more environmentally friendly campus". USC will switch to biodiesel for the five campus shuttle buses, each using 25 to 30 gallons of diesel per day, and for the five 40-passenger buses used for field trips and other off campus destinations. The State Energy Office is helping USC purchase the biodiesel through a grant to "buy down" the rate of biodiesel to the rate of

regular diesel. For more information on the biodiesel switch at USC, contact Derrick Huggins at 803/777-5160 or at [dehugg@sc.edu](mailto:dehugg@sc.edu).

**Ford Announces AFV Incentive:**

Ford Motor Company has announced an Early Order Incentive of \$1,000 on 2003 Alternative Fuel Vehicles. The early order incentive will be offered on all vehicles ordered from August 1 to December 31, 2002. The 2003 Alternative Fuel Vehicle lineup includes F150 LPG bi-fuel, F150 CNG bi-fuel, F150 CNG dedicated, Crown Victoria CNG dedicated, Econoline Van CNG dedicated, Econoline Wagon CNG dedicated, and the Econoline Cutaway CNG dedicated. For more information on the Early Order Incentive Program, contact April Dents the Ford AFV Regional Sales Manager for the Southern Region at 678/376-3905 or call the Ford AFV hotline at 1-800-34-FLEET.

**Jan Smoak Wins Award for E85 Project:**

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, Jan Smoak was presented with the South Carolina Governmental Fleet Managers Association Presidents Award. The Presidents Award recognizes the innovative, creative and proactive Efforts of Jan in the establishment of the First E85 Refueling Infrastructure for Governmental Fleets in South Carolina. Jan was further honored for his contribution and commitment towards a Clean Air Environment. Congratulations to Jan from all the members of the Palmetto State Coalition!

**Ag Council Hosts AF Session:**

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, the South Carolina Agricultural Council meeting focused on “Alternative Fuels – Updates on State and Federal Initiatives”. Krysta Harden from the American Soybean Association discussing the Federal prospective on biodiesel and in particular the proposed changes to the U.S. Bioenergy Program that would reduce payment calculations for soy-based diesel by 60%. Nikki Parris of United Energy in Aiken gave a presentation on the outlook for all alternative fuels in South Carolina from a distributor’s prospective. LeAnn Herren presented the activities of the Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition. The group was interested in becoming more involved with the Coalition. The newly elected Agricultural Commissioner, Charles Sharpe, was in attendance and discussed the proposed alternative fuels tax incentive legislation. He hopes to see it submitted again this legislative session and encouraged the Ag Council to become involved. For more information on the meeting, contact Margaret Owens, South Carolina Soybean Board, at 803/469-6740 or [scsoybeans@ftc-i.net](mailto:scsoybeans@ftc-i.net).

**United Energy Increasing Biodiesel:**

Red Roberts has informed the Coalition that United Energy has recently bought land and rail siding in Aiken. This purchase, along with the purchase of 4 – 85000 gallon storage tanks, will allow United Energy to increase biodiesel storage by 340,000 gallons. This will make biodiesel more readily available to purchasers in South Carolina.

**AF Workshop Held in Ashville:**

SC, NC, TN and GA hosted a regional alternative fuels workshop in Asheville, NC November 6-7. The workshop focused on ways to build alternative fuel networks in the Southeast region. 135 people attended this workshop, including regional Department of

Energy officials, state air quality and energy officials, state and local government fleet managers, fuel suppliers, OEMs, and university students. In addition to many excellent presentations including updates from the OEMs, workshop participants split into four working groups to address the challenges facing the development of regional refueling corridors and solutions to those challenges.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants recommended the development of a regional alternative fuels workgroup comprised of representatives from each state. This group will develop overall goals and recommendations for advancing the alternative fuels choice in the Southeast. The group will also take on many other tasks deemed crucial by workshop participants, including the development of an emissions breakdown on each of the alternative fuels, a white paper detailing conference results, and development of model legislation for alternative fuels.

This workshop was the first step towards better coordination in our region. We are pleased to have been a part of it, and will continue to work towards a sustainable alternative fuels market – not just in SC, but throughout our entire region.

**NC Hosting Airport AF Workshop:**

Anne Tazewell, Clean Cities Coordinator for Raleigh-Durham, has invited stakeholders in the Palmetto State Coalition to a workshop on Airports and Alternative Fuels. The workshop will be held December 4 from 9:00-3:00 at the Raleigh-Durham International Airport. For details on the agenda and registration call 919/558-9400 or visit the website at <http://www.trianglecities.org>

**E85 Training at SCGFM Meeting:**

Two E85 workshops were held at the South Carolina Governmental Fleet Managers Association Annual Meeting on October 27-30. The presentations were developed by the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition (NEVC) and presented by Jan Smoak of SCDHEC on behalf of Phillip Lampert, Executive Director of the NEVC who was unable to attend. Response was positive to the presentation regarding the importance of offering the E85 option to state fleets. Special consideration was given to the importance of E85 and E85 infrastructure development to decrease the dependence of the United States on foreign oil imports in these difficult political times.

**SCDHEC Early Action Plan:**

In August 2002, DHEC published a Notice of Drafting in the State Newspaper stating the intention to pursue an Early Action Plan to assure the ambient air in South Carolina meets the Federal 8-hour ozone standard prior the the deadline. EPA promulgated an 8-hour ozone standard in 1997 to assure an adequate margin of safety to the public health from the effects of ozone exposure. Areas that are not in attainment with the standard will face severe consequences including additional permit requirements, potential loss of federal funds for roadway projects and of course public health issues. EPA is currently collecting data from DHEC's statewide air monitoring system to determine if any counties are outside the compliance levels. EPA will be designating area as "non-attainment" sometime in 2004. The Early Action Plan will allow communities to

determine the actions necessary to ensure compliance with the 8-hour ozone standard prior to the federal timeframe. Milestones include an emissions inventory and modeling project, adoption of control strategies that demonstrate attainment, completion and adoption of the State Implementation Plan at a local level and attainment with federal standards. For further information on the Early Action Plan project, visit [www.scdhec.net/baq/eap.html](http://www.scdhec.net/baq/eap.html) or contact Henry Phillips at 803/896-3260 or [phillimh@dhec.state.sc.us](mailto:phillimh@dhec.state.sc.us)

**Coalition Logo Needed:**

The Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition is in search of a new logo for the partnership. The logo will be used on all publications for the Coalition, including outreach items such as the website and brochure. Please submit any ideas for the logo to the Trisha Tangney of the State Energy Office at [ptangney@ogs.state.sc.us](mailto:ptangney@ogs.state.sc.us)